



PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
)
Shriram Ramanathan et al.)
)
Serial No.: 10/611,395)
)
Filed: June 30, 2003)
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For: Methods for Bonding Wafers)
Using a Metal Interlayer)
)
Examiner: Heather Anne Doty)
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Group Art Unit: 2813)
)
Attorney Docket No.: 42P16666)
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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

This Preliminary Amendment accompanies a Request for Continued Examination
(RCE) filed in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.114.

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

The following amendments and remarks are proposed in response to the Final Office Action mailed September 28, 2005.

Claims 1-42 were pending in the application, but claims 28-42 have been withdrawn from further consideration. Claims 1-11 and 13-26 have been rejected, and claims 12 and 27 stand objected to. Applicants propose herein to amend each of claims 1 and 13. Applicants also propose to cancel withdrawn claims 28-42.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application in view of the amendments set forth herein and the accompanying remarks.